

I originally pursued WOC Nurse certification as a long-term care nurse to better meet the needs of the population I served and become a resource for those I worked with who also struggled to meet the wound, ostomy, and continence needs of our patients. I was fortunate as a novice CWOC Nurse to advocate for my patient population by presenting a “Challenge” at the 2015 Regional Conference. Since, I have become a member of the Education Committee and Chair Challenges and Posters and in my role, had the opportunity to bring in speakers and member-provided educational content for our conference to support the dissemination of research, integrate evidence into practice and promote quality improvement. As a nurse educator, I share my enthusiasm and knowledge to improve patient care through others and grow interest in the WOC Nursing specialty among my students and peers. In pursuing my DNP, I have grown in my own research skills and ability to translate science into practice to improve outcomes, for example, presenting on the importance of oral care and assessment at the 2019 Regional Conference. I am so grateful for the generosity of the New England Region WOC Nurses Society in supporting my continuing education to become a DNP prepared WOC Nurse. I am enthusiastic about continuing my involvement in our organization and being part of a community of skilled and compassionate, and passionate, nursing peers.